



WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A region that drains into a particular body of water, such as a river, pond, lake or ocean, is known as a **drainage basin** or **watershed**.

WHAT IS THE MUSKOKA WATERSHED COUNCIL?

It's a group of people who care about the health of Muskoka's watersheds. An important activity of MWC is to promote practices that respect the environment by not damaging Muskoka's natural landscapes.

ARE YOU AWARE OF STRESSES ON THE LAND AND WATER AROUND YOU?

Is there evidence of erosion on your shoreline or river-bank? Have you noticed a reduction in the numbers or diversity of wildlife on your lake or in your woodlot? The Clean & Green 13 is a list of some positive steps that you can take right now to improve the health of Muskoka's watersheds.

Please visit www.muskokawatershed.org for details on how these actions protect your watershed.



www.muskokawatershed.org

info@muskokawatershed.org

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CLEAN & GREEN 13

I want my watershed to be Clean & Green, therefore I will:

Protect Air Quality:

- 1 Reduce my gasoline consumption.
- 2 Buy fuel-efficient engines (in vehicles, lawn mowers, snowmobiles, etc.).

In My House/Cottage:

- 3 Inspect my septic tank every 2 to 3 years & have it pumped regularly, as appropriate.
- 4 Use phosphate-free soaps & alternative cleaners such as baking soda & vinegar.
- 5 Take paint, batteries, aerosol cans and oil to hazardous waste depots for disposal.
- 6 Recycle & compost in order to reduce my household garbage to 1 bag or less per week.

On My Property:

- 7 Reduce or eliminate my use of chemical fertilizers.
- 8 Preserve the natural vegetation & trees on my property.
- 9 Handle fuel, oil & other chemicals with great care & have an action plan to deal with any spills that occur.

On My Shoreline:

- 10 Ensure that my dock(s), boathouse & other structures do not occupy more than 25% of my shoreline.
- 11 Leave the remaining 75% (or more) of my shoreline in its natural state.

When Using Watercraft, Snowmobiles or Other Engines:

- 12 Prevent erosion by reducing boat wake effects on shorelines.
 - 13 Buy a 4-stroke engine in any future boat or other recreational vehicle purchase.
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